

From the report *Show Us the Stimulus (Again)*, online at <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/stimulusweb.cfm>.

STATE: Minnesota <http://www.recovery.mn>

CATEGORY	SCORING SYSTEM (* shows component of actual score)	MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE	ACTUAL TOTAL SCORE
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) BY PROGRAM AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad categories only: 5 - Narrow categories only: 5 - Both broad and narrow categories: 10* - No breakdown by program areas: 0 	10	10
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) BY COUNTY OR OTHER RELEVANT GEOGRAPHIC UNIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County/geographic unit overall totals only: 10 - County/unit totals for individual programs only: 10 - County/unit totals for both individual programs and overall spending: 15* - No county/geographic unit breakdowns: 0 	15	15
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) COMPARED TO ECONOMIC DISTRESS (unemployment, home foreclosure, poverty, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County or other relevant geographic unit distribution compared to two or more variables: 15 - Compared to one variable: 10 - No comparisons to economic needs: 0 EXTRA CREDIT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -percentage of contracts given to disadvantaged business enterprises: 5 	15 (plus 5 potential extra credit)	0
CONTRACT/GRANT DETAILS (via maps or lists)	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Descriptions of individual contract/ grant projects: 3* - Dollar amount: 3* - Name of recipient entity: 3* - Text of contract or grant document: 3 - Status of project/portion completed: 3* 	15	12
RECIPIENT JOBS DATA	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actual job data for individual contract and grants: 7* - Job totals for program areas: 5* - Job totals for the entire state: 3* EXTRA CREDIT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data on job quality (wage rates): 5 - demographics of workers: 5 	15 (plus 10 potential extra credit)	15
MAPPING OF CONTRACT AND GRANT PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive map with significant details on projects: 15* - Interactive map with limited details on projects: 10 - Static map: 5 - No mapping: 0 	15	15
USER AIDS	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - search box (including coverage of data): 5 - data downloadability: 5* - machine-readable data feed: 5 	15	5
TOTALS		100 (plus 15 potential extra credit)	72

Notes: Minnesota's Recovery Act website has undergone a significant improvement, but it is still lacking features such as access to contract award documents and comparisons of spending distribution to patterns of need. It would also be beneficial to disclose the quality of ARRA jobs (much like existing TIF legislation already does in Minnesota) as well as the demographics of workers whose jobs are funded by ARRA.

Spending by broad category is available at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/report> Click on "Awards by Category Level."

Spending by narrow category is posted on the bottom left of the map at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/report> Click on "Awards by Category Level," then click on a particular category and subsequent state agency administering that program. A list of specific types of Recovery Act projects like Weatherization or Title I will show up.

Spending across counties is available by clicking on the Recovery Act map at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/jobs-created>

Grant and contract details (including jobs data) are downloadable at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/spend-graphs/1038-data-charts/31-database> and at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/doc/excel/spreadsheet.xls>

Grant and contract details (including jobs data) are also displayed on the map available if the "Show Individual Projects" box is checked on the map at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/rec-map>

Minnesota also posts a link to a spreadsheet of Recovery Act projects occurring statewide that are not place specific: <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/stimulus/Statewide%20Projects.htm>

The state could improve maps by allowing the user to choose between displaying differently sized symbols and graduated colors. It would also be helpful if the state broke the data up according to natural breaks. This would avoid some misleading interpretations: Hennepin County was allocated \$382 million while neighboring Anoka County was allocated \$68 million yet both symbols are the same size. A legend describing the range of spending for the symbols or graduated colors would also assist the user. The same could be done for comparing spending to economic distress.